

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 271. (canceled)

272. (currently amended) A method of identifying an agent that modulates a phenotype associated with a disruption of a the gene which that encodes for a native sequence PRO224 polypeptide, wherein said phenotype comprises an eye abnormality, the method comprising: (a) providing a non-human transgenic animal mammal whose genome comprises a disruption of the gene which encodes for the native sequence PRO224 polypeptide; (b) measuring a physiological characteristic of an eye of the non-human transgenic animal mammal of (a); (c) comparing the measured physiological characteristic of (b) with that of a gender matched wild-type animal, wherein the physiological characteristic of an eye of the non-human transgenic animal mammal that differs from the physiological characteristic of the wild-type animal mammal is identified as a phenotype resulting from the gene disruption in the non-human transgenic animal mammal; (d) administering a test agent to the non-human transgenic animal mammal of (a); and (e) determining whether the test agent modulates the identified said phenotype associated with gene disruption in the non-human transgenic animal mammal, whereby an agent which is determined to modulate an eye abnormality associated with a disruption of the gene that encodes for the native sequence PRO224 polypeptide is identified.

273. (currently amended) The method of Claim 272, wherein the phenotype associated with the gene disruption comprises a cardiovascular disorder or an eye abnormality.

274-279. (canceled)

280. (previously presented) The method of Claim 273, wherein the eye abnormality is a retinal abnormality.

281. (withdrawn and currently amended) The method of Claim ~~273~~ 280, wherein the eye abnormality is a retinal abnormality consistent with vision problems or blindness.

282. (previously presented) The method of Claim 280, wherein the retinal abnormality is consistent with retinitis pigmentosa.

283. (previously presented) The method of Claim 280, wherein the retinal abnormality is

characterized by retinal degeneration or retinal dysplasia.

284. (currently amended) The method of Claim 280, wherein the retinal abnormality is consistent with retinal dysplasia, various retinopathies, including retinopathy of prematurity, retrolental fibroplasia, neovascular glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic macular edema, corneal neovascularization, corneal graft neovascularization, corneal graft rejection, retinal/choroidal neovascularization, neovascularization of the angle (rubeosis), ocular neovascular disease, vascular stenosis, arteriovenous malformations (AVM), meningioma, hemangioma, angiofibroma, thyroid hyperplasias (including Grave's disease), corneal and other tissue transplantation, retinal artery obstruction or occlusion; retinal degeneration causing secondary atrophy of the retinal vasculature, retinitis pigmentosa, macular dystrophies, Stargardt's disease, congenital stationary night blindness, choroideremia, gyrate atrophy, Leber's congenital amaurosis, retinoschisis disorders, Wagner's syndrome, Usher syndromes, Zellweger syndrome, Saldino-Mainzer syndrome, Senior-Loken syndrome, Bardet-Biedl syndrome, Alport's syndrome, Alstrom's syndrome, Cockayne's syndrome, ~~dysplasia~~ dysplasia spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia congenita, Flynn-Aird syndrome, Friedreich ataxia, Hallgren syndrome, Marshall syndrome, Albers-Schönberg disease, Refsum's disease, Kearns-Sayre syndrome, Waardenburg's syndrome, Alagille syndrome, myotonic dystrophy, olivopontocerebellar atrophy, Pierre-Marie ~~disease~~ syndrome, Stickler syndrome, carotinemia, cystinosis, Wolfram syndrome, Bassen-Kornzweig syndrome, abetalipoproteinemia, incontinentia pigmenti, Batten's disease, mucopolysaccharidoses, homocystinuria, or mannosidosis.

285 - 287. (canceled)

288. (currently amended) The method of Claim 273, wherein the ~~cardiovascular disorders are~~ arterial diseases, such as diabetes mellitus, papilledema; eye abnormality comprises optic atrophy; ~~atherosclerosis; or hypertension.~~

289 - 290. (canceled)

291. (currently amended) The method of Claim 272, wherein the non-human transgenic ~~animal~~ mammal exhibits the following physiological characteristic compared with gender-matched wild-type littermates: an increased mean artery-to-vein ratio associated with retinal degeneration.

292-386. (canceled)